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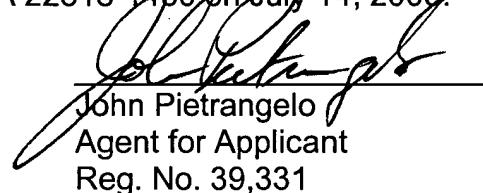
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Granger Attorney Ref.: 1759.053
Serial No.: 09/966,028 Group Art Unit: 3724
Filed: September 28, 2001 Examiner: Dexter, Clark F.
Title: SAFETY DEVICE FOR STRIP DISPENSING MACHINE

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CERTIFICATE OF FIRST-CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail and is addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 14, 2003.



John Pietrangelo
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,331

Date of Signature: July 14, 2003

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To: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment,
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

Introductory Comments

This Response to Office Action is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2003. Since this Response to Office Action is being filed on or before October 1, 2003, that is, within three months of the date of mailing of the Office Action, this Response is being timely filed.

Applicant: Granger
Serial No.: 09/966,028

Attorney Ref.: 1759.053

The following Amendment is submitted in accordance with the Revised Amendment Format under the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as issued by the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy on 1/31/03.